

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 070844Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3415

C O N N I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3053

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE, EUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, PFOR, RO

SUBJ: NOTIFICATION TO JEWISH COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITY TO EMIGRATE

REF: (A) BUCH 2765 (B) BUCH 2915 (C) STATE 158064

(D) BUCH 3007

1. SO FAR AS WE KNOW WHAT JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN TOLD FORMALLY ABOUT OPPORTUNITY TO EMIGRATE IS CONTAINED IN LEVY REPORT OF BUCHAREST SYNAGOGUE SERVICE. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN ANY REPORTS ON PROVINCIAL SYNAGOGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS BUT HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THEY WERE THE SAME I.E. ANNOUNCEMENT APPLIED ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY IN THE PAST TO LEAVE. THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR (REFTEL D) ALSO BELIEVES WORD HAS SPREAD AROUND THE COMMUNITY.

2. INFORMALLY RABBI ROSEN SAYS HE TOLD THE GATHERING OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES (REFTEL A, PARA 3) TO REGISTER ALSO (THOUGH SEPARATELY) THOSE WHO NOW INDICATED FOR THE FIRST TIME A DESIRE TO LEAVE.

3. OUR CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT STATED IN PARA 3 REFTEL C. SORRY IF THE IMPLICATIONS OF REFTEL B WERE NOT SPELLED OUT ENOUGH. AS REPORTED THEREIN (PARA 2) RABBI ROSEN DID NOT AS OF JUNE 28 ANTICIPATE A TOTAL FIGURE  
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MUCH HIGHER FOR NOW THAN 700-800 PERSONS, INCLUDING RPT

INCLUDING NEW APPLICANTS. THEREFORE WE CONCLUDE THAT THE REGISTRATION FIGURES ARE INDICATIVE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JEWS NOW RPT NOW SEEKING TO LEAVE. THEY ARE INDICATIVE IN OUR JUDGMENT IF THEY ARE ADDED TO THOSE APPROXIMATELY 1300 (DEPENDING ON WHOSE FIGURES YOU USE) WHOSE DEPARTURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED THIS YEAR BUT HAVE NOT YET LEFT -- I.E. A ROUGH TOTAL OF 2000. TO THESE COULD BE ADDED PERHAPS ANOTHER 600-700 WHOSE APPROVALS CAME BEFORE JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AND WHO HAVE NOT YET LEFT.

4. ALL THE ABOVE IS FAIRLY FIRM. WHAT IS STILL A QUAGMIRE IS THE AFTER "NOW" PERIOD. WHEN RABBI ROSEN WAS REFERRING TO "FOR NOW" HE WAS INDICATING HE DID NOT KNOW HIMSELF WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD HOLD. HE HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THESE WHO STILL WANT TO LEAVE WILL GO WHEN IT IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THEM AND WILL NOT RUSH THE WAY EARLIER GROUPS DID. LIKewise THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR (REFTEL D PARA 4) ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HE TOO HAS NO REALLY CLEAR IDEA JUST HOW MANY REALLY WANT TO LEAVE AND WHEN.

5. WHAT SEEMS IMPORTANT TO ME TO STRESS IS A) THE WORD HAS GOTTEN AROUND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED TO LEAVE BEFORE AND COULD NOT HAVE A NEW CHANCE, B) IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE REALLY WANTED TO LEAVE HAD NEVER RPT NEVER APPLIED BEFORE, GIVEN THE 350,000 WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT. C) IN ANY EVENT, THE BEST WAY TO GIVE SUCH OTHERS A CHANCE TO LEAVE IS TO LET THERE BE A PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY CAN SEE OTHERS ARE INDEED STILL LEAVING. AS AMBASSADOR COHEN NOTED, RENEWED ACTUAL DEPARTURES WILL PROBABLY TRIGGER NEW MOVEMENT IN EMIGRATION OF THE "WAIT AND SEE CATEGORY".  
BARNES

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